

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION OF BRADFORD ISLAND  
Updated August 2003**

**Involved Agencies:**

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**PROJECT BACKGROUND**

The Corps' Bonneville Lock and Dam was constructed in the 1930's and began producing power in 1938. A small community with 20 single-family houses was constructed on the project and Corps personnel and their families lived there from the late '30s through the late '70s. In the 1950's six units of four apartments each were added.

From about 1942 until about 1982, the landfill on Bradford Island (see attachment 2) was used to dispose of household garbage and some project waste materials, such as: oil and grease; paint and paint-related wastes, such as solvents; scrap metals; mercury vapor lamps; pesticide residues; cables; and sand blast grit. Some electrical transmission components were also placed in the landfill: switchgear, possibly insulators and light ballasts. The houses were removed in the late 1970's and the landfill closed soon after.

The total landfill area is about one-half acre in size (about one-third of a football field in area), and is estimated to hold about 8,800 cubic yards of material including soil used to fill and cover the landfill. It is on the northeastern portion of Bradford Island, and is not in a public area.

New environmental laws were enacted in the '70s and agencies such as the Corps began to change their standard operational procedures to comply. By the '80s knowledge of potential environmental damage from commonly used materials had grown, and hazardous waste disposal and compliance requirements were implemented on a national basis. What had been accepted practice when the landfill was used was no longer acceptable, and the Corps started to bring the Bonneville project into compliance.

An evaluation process begun in the early '90s has progressed through phased investigations conducted under a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement between the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the Corps. Work is currently underway to understand the risk related to the landfill wastes and evaluate options to manage these risks to the environment and the public.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:**

The Bonneville Lock and Dam project is an industrial site. The portion of the Bradford Island that was formerly used as a landfill has been set aside by the Corps to be managed as wildlife habitat, specifically for the benefit of Canadian Geese. This section of the Columbia River supports an active fishery as well as a number of sensitive and important bird and fish species such as bald eagles, migratory waterfowl and threatened and endangered salmon runs. Environmental concerns are as follows:

### **Landfill**

- Exposure to hazardous substances in landfill soils or vegetation may harm wildlife.
- Landfill contaminants potentially can be transported into the river by slope erosion or by groundwater transport.

### **In-Water**

- PCBs are persistent, bioaccumulating compounds. They are a suspected human carcinogen and have been shown to have a number of negative effects on wildlife. PCBs in river sediments adjacent to the landfill and in clam and crayfish tissue indicate they are present in the local food web.
- Future investigations will determine if the remaining sediments are an on going source of PCBs to the environment.

## **PROJECT STATUS:**

### **Landfill:**

The final Site Investigation Report and Risk Assessment, which summarize the nature and extent of hazardous substances in the landfill and the associated potential risks, will be completed in late 2003.

The Corps is also working on an evaluation of options to cleanup or manage the risks associated with landfill. This evaluation of remedial options (Feasibility Study) is due to be completed by the spring of 2004.

### **In-Water:**

The Corps has prepared and is currently implementing a Sampling and Analysis Plan to determine the nature and extent of hazardous substances in sediments within the Bonneville Dam forebay. The results of this work will be used to help define any residual contamination in sediments and perform initial human health and ecological risk screening. The plan has been reviewed by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and is posted on the Corps' website for public viewing (<https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/issues/bradford>).

The Corps conducted the sediment sampling during March and April 2003. Analysis of the samples, in two stages, is currently underway.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN OBJECTIVES**

### **Objectives:**

Five public involvement objectives are identified in this plan, and a series of proposed activities are presented that can help the Corps and DEQ meet these objectives. At any time, if members of the community identify a specific activity or tool that can help them participate in the process, let the Corps and DEQ know! Public involvement can help project managers shape good decisions that will both meet the needs of the community and satisfy legal and regulatory environmental requirements.

The objectives of this public involvement plan are to:

1. Provide opportunities for public participation that will effectively incorporate community concerns into the decision-making process.
2. Provide consistent, regular and timely information about the investigation and proposed activities at Bradford Island.
3. Identify affected communities and key stakeholders and establish regular and open dialogue in order to respond to questions, concerns and conflicts as they arise.
4. Meet statutory requirements regarding public notice and opportunities for public involvement.
5. Evaluate the effectiveness of this community involvement plan and make changes accordingly.

### **Tribal Communication**

Tribal governments may have an interest in the project because of:

- Treaty rights that provide access to the river's resources;
- Historical use of the area for fishing and cultural purposes;
- Importance of fish sustenance and ceremonial purposes; and
- Their roles as natural resource trustees charged with protection of fish and wildlife.

Both the Corps and DEQ have obligations to consult with Tribal governments on a government-to-government basis, and the Corps has a trust responsibility to the Tribes, as do all federal agencies. This Public Involvement Plan will not substitute for appropriate consultation between governments, and the Corps will have primary responsibility for formal government-to-government consultation with interested Tribal governments.

## Public Involvement Strategy

The following section identifies public outreach activities that may be used to help the Corps and DEQ satisfy the objectives of this plan. These are some of the public involvement tools that could be helpful for keeping the community informed, and are options both the agencies and the community can consider as the project proceeds.

Both agencies will respond in a timely and appropriate manner to concerns and issues raised by members of the local community or organizations. The Corps and DEQ welcome feedback on the public involvement plan and activities, and will update the plan as the needs of the project change.

**Fact Sheets:** The Corps and DEQ will issue periodic fact sheets about cleanup activities, significant milestones in the investigation, technical information, and project findings. The fact sheets will be mailed to the Bradford Island mailing list, and be posted on the Corps and DEQ Web pages.

**Informal communication/Meetings:** Corps and DEQ project managers are always willing to meet with a wide range of stakeholders and community members to discuss new developments on the investigation, as well as to keep up-to-date on community issues and concerns.

**Public review of documents:** Reports, work plans and sampling results will be available for public review. The availability of this information will be shared in fact sheets and posted on Corps and DEQ web sites, as well as DEQ's Northwest Region Office. These documents may also be available at the libraries in Stevenson and North Bonneville depending on community interest.

**Open Houses:** If there is sufficient community interest, the Corps and DEQ will consider holding open houses and workshops to discuss significant milestones in the investigation and share information about the progress of the project.

**Project Mailing List:** The Corps and DEQ will maintain and regularly update their project mailing lists to ensure stakeholders and neighbors receive information about the site. Key stakeholders identified to-date are listed in Attachment 1.

**News Releases:** Significant project news and milestones will be shared with media outlets in the Portland metropolitan area and the Cascade Locks area.

**Web Sites:** The Corps and DEQ will maintain project web sites where most publicly available information about the project can be viewed.

- Corps of Engineers: <https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/issues/Bradford/>.
- DEQ: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/nwr/bradford.htm>.

## **WHAT'S NEXT IN THE PROCESS**

This section of the public involvement plan outlines proposed actions, the documents produced, the lead agency and the approximate schedule. This action plan will be updated periodically as new information about activities and timeframes is identified, and as we receive feedback from the community. Additional timeline information will be available on the agencies' websites.

<b>Landfill</b>			
<b>Next Actions</b>	<b>Documents to be Produced</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Estimated Timing</b>
Complete Site Characterization - Finalize the Draft Site Investigation Report	Site Investigation Report	Corps	September 2003
Risk Assessment – determines risks to humans and environment from the contamination	Environmental Risk Assessment Human Health Risk Assessment	Corps	December 2003
Analysis of Remedy Alternatives – reviews available options to cleanup or manage the potential risks associated with the hazardous substances present in landfill	Feasibility Study	Corps	Spring 2004
Public Notice Proposing Remedy and Providing Opportunity for Comment on the proposed remedy	DEQ Staff Report	DEQ	Summer 2004
Select Remedy	Record of Decision	DEQ	Fall 2004
Public Notice Announcing Remedy Selected	Notice	DEQ	
Design and Implement Remedy	Plans and Specifications & After Action Report	Corps	Summer/Fall 2005

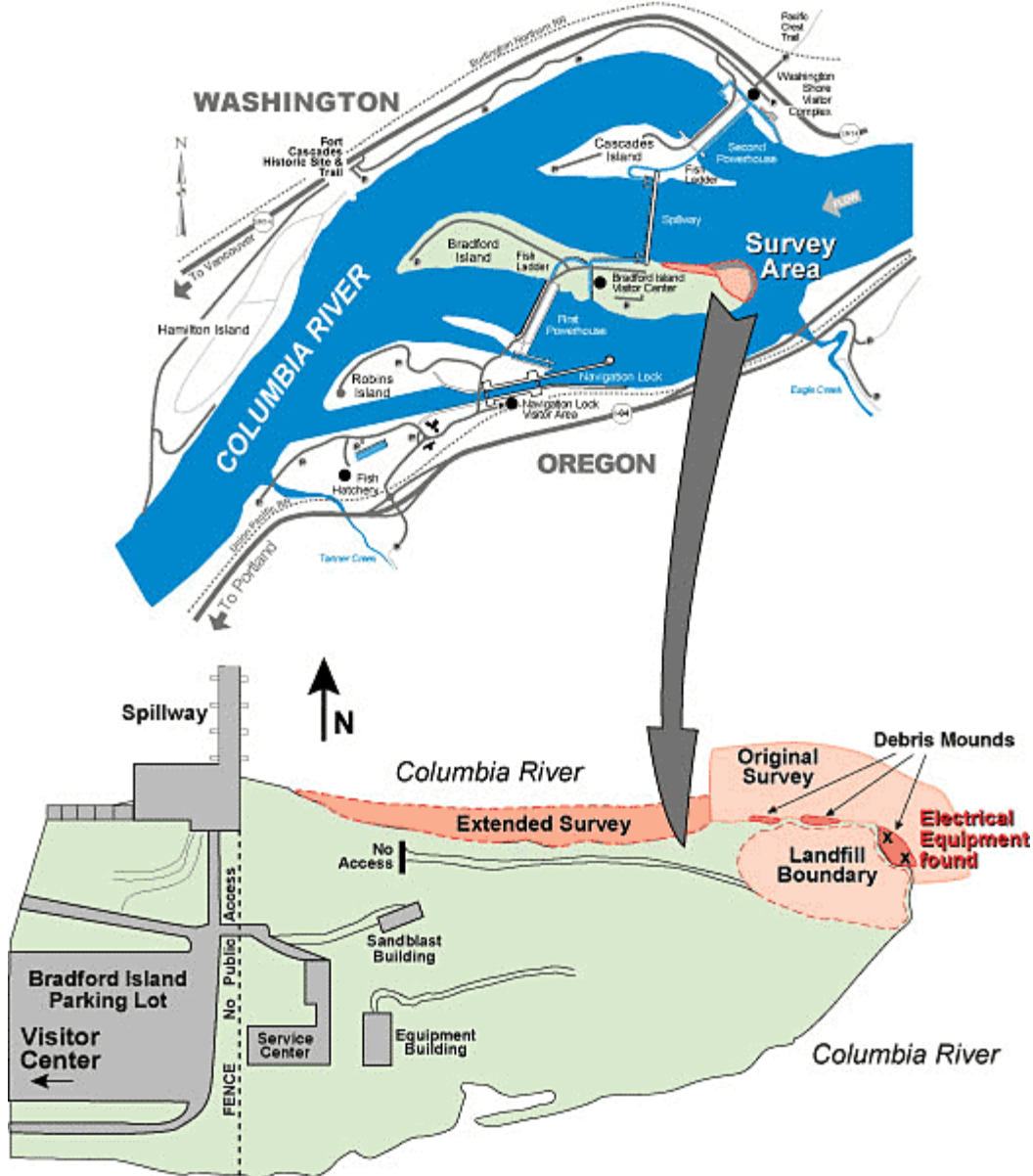
<b>In-Water</b>			
<b>Next Actions</b>	<b>Documents to be Produced</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Estimated Timing</b>
Prepare Work Plan to Determine the Nature and Extent of Sediment Contamination and Risks to Public Health and the Environment	Work Plan	Corps	January 2003
Perform In-Water Sampling		Corps	March 2003
Prepare Report Summarizing Findings	In-Water Investigation Report	Corps	Winter 2003

**Attachment 1**  
**List of Identified Stakeholders**

Local Governments	City of North Bonneville, Wash. City of Stevenson, Wash. City of Cascade Locks, Ore. Multnomah County, Ore. Hood River County, Ore. Skamania County, Wash.
State and Federal Agencies	NW Congressional Delegation U.S. Environmental Protection Agency U.S. Fish and Wildlife U.S. Forest Service National Marine Fisheries Services Columbia Gorge Commission Oregon Division of State Lands Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Oregon Department of Health Services Washington Department of Ecology Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Washington Department of Health
Tribal governments and organizations	Nez Perce Tribe Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakima Nation Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
River Users	Subsistence anglers Recreational users Non-English speaking river users Marine-Oriented Businesses
Media	Local and Portland-metro
Environmental and Community Groups	American Rivers Columbia Riverkeeper Lower Columbia River Estuary Program Lower Columbia River Estuary Program Northwest Environmental Advocates NW Sportfishing Industry Association Oregon Environmental Council Oregon Natural Resources Council Portland Audubon Society Save our Wild Salmon Sierra Club Trout Unlimited

Attachment 2  
Map

## Bonneville Lock and Dam Project Area Map



## Bradford Island Historic Landfill Investigation